

***Habenaria viridis* var. *bracteata* (Gray)**

long-bract frog orchid
Orchidaceae (Orchid Family)

Status: State Review Group 1

Rank: G5T5S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1969):

Habenaria viridis var. *bracteata* is a glabrous, sturdy, leafy-stemmed perennial that is 8 to 20 in. (20-50 cm) tall. It has a fleshy root and sheathing leaves that are somewhat reduced and narrowed upward. The basal leaves are bladeless. The lower stem leaves are lance shaped, and the mid cauline blades are the largest and up to 4 to 4¾ in. (10-12 cm) long. The racemes are somewhat loose, open and spreading to densely many flowered. The green conspicuous bracts are lanceolate and ¾ to 1 2/3 in. (2-4 cm) long. The lower bracts are somewhat leaf-like and reduced upward, and the uppermost ones are longer than the flowers they subtend. The greenish flowers are subsessile and the petals, column, and base of the lip are sometimes purple tinged. The concave upper sepal is broadly ovate to ovate lanceolate. The concave lateral sepals are broadly lanceolate, somewhat hooked and generally slightly longer than the upper sepals. The petals are much narrower than the sepals, slightly keeled in the center, and have upturned margins. The flower lip is 3 lobed at the tip, and the middle lobe is always the shortest and is sometimes lacking. The pale and translucent pouch-shaped spur is ¼ to ½ the length of the lip. The united filaments (column) are less than 1/16 in. (1 mm) long and the stamens are unusually conspicuous. The pollen sacs are about 1/16 in. (1.5 mm) long, with a mass of waxy pollen grains per pollen sac.

Identification Tips: *Habenaria viridis* var. *bracteata* is similar to the *Habenaria viridis* from the Old World, but is much longer bracted. Within its range it most closely resembles *H. chorisiana*. *Habenaria viridis* var. *bracteata* has conspicuous stem leaves, and the bracts are ¾ to 1-2/3 in. (2-4 cm) long, whereas *H. chorisiana* lacks stem leaves, and the bracts are only up to ½ in. (12 mm) long.

Phenology: This taxon flowers from late June through July.

Range: This taxon is distributed from Alaska south to Washington, and in the Rocky Mountains of Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. It is also found in the east in Nebraska, Illinois,

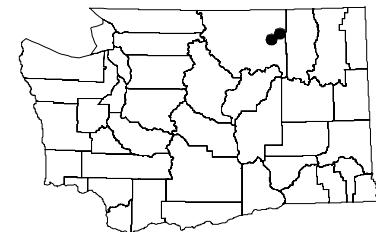
Habenaria viridis* var. *bracteata

long-bract frog orchid



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Known distribution of
Habenaria viridis
var. *bracteata*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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West Virginia, and North Carolina. In Washington it has been found in Okanogan County.

Habitat: This taxon has been found at elevations of 3840 to 4400 ft (1170-1341 m) in aspen stands within coniferous areas. Associated species include Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Sitka alder (*Alnus viridis* ssp. *sinuata*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), few-flower shooting-star (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*), violet (*Viola* sp.), and pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*).

Ecology: The taxon is found in shallow, moist areas that are wet in the springtime.

State Status Comments: Because this taxon was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time.

Inventory Needs: Additional surveys are needed in aspen stands within coniferous areas throughout Okanogan County.

Threats and Management Concerns: Habitat preservation and protection from timber harvest would help protect populations of this taxon. Prescribed burning might also benefit populations.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 914 pp.